

Scott Buckles, *Chairman*
José Dodier, Jr., *Vice Chairman*
Marty H. Graham, *Member*
Jerry D. Nichols, *Member*



Barry Mahler, *Member*
Larry D. Jacobs, *Member*
Joe L. Ward, *Member*
Rex Isom, *Executive Director*

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM OFFICE
Protecting and Enhancing Natural Resources for Tomorrow

TO: All Chairmen, Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Johnny Oswald, Water Supply Enhancement Program Administrator, TSSWCB

DATE: May 26, 2016

RE: FY2017 Water Supply Enhancement Program Request for Project Proposals

The TSSWCB is requesting proposals for water supply enhancement projects seeking funding in FY2017 to conduct brush control under the Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP). Proposed projects should focus on watersheds with a demonstrated water conservation need and where brush control has been shown, using a computer model, to be a feasible strategy to enhance surface and/or ground water supplies. Monday, **July 18, 2016**, is the deadline for submitting all FY2017 WSEP project proposals.

A competitive proposal review process will be used so that the most appropriate and effective projects are selected for funding. In July 2014, the State Board adopted the *State Water Supply Enhancement Plan*, which describes the program purpose and goals, the competitive grant process and proposal ranking criteria, how the agency will allocate funding, and priority watersheds across the state for water supply enhancement and brush control.

The State Board recently approved two changes from the previous request for proposals intended to strengthen the WSEP by increasing the acreage of brush treated in a particular subbasin, which should increase the hydrologic response due to vegetation changes. First, each SWCD involved in the WSEP is limited to two (2) subbasins as active projects. This will focus the brush control being conducted in any particular SWCD. Essentially, this means that, depending on the number of active projects from the FY2016 request for proposals, a SWCD may only submit a maximum of two new proposals through this FY2017 RFP. Second, in order to balance the two active projects limitation, extended time is needed to complete an approved, prioritized project. Therefore, an active project will remain on the approved, prioritized project list, eligible for cost-share allocation, until the SWCD certifies that brush control is complete in that subbasin, or no more than 10 years after being approved.

Enclosed is a copy of the application for proposed water supply enhancement projects. Additionally, two documents are enclosed to provide you assistance in completing the application. The first document is a set of instructions for the application that provides explanations of questions on the form and resources for answering those questions. The second document is a set of guidelines that details project eligibility requirements, identifies watersheds with published feasibility studies, and provides additional information critical for successful applications. All three of the enclosed documents are also available on the agency website.

SWCD Chairmen
May 26, 2016
RE: FY2017 WSEP Request for Project Proposals
Page 2 of 2

As you may recall, the TSSWCB went through the Sunset review process in 2010-2011. This culminated in the 82nd Legislature passing HB1808 which delineated major changes to TSSWCB programs, including establishing the WSEP. This FY2017 request for proposals for water supply enhancement projects continues to implement provisions of HB1808.

Additional information on the TSSWCB WSEP and this FY2017 request for proposals is available on our website at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/brushcontrol#rfp>. Please contact the WSEP office if you have any questions regarding FY2017 water supply enhancement project proposals.

Enclosures (11 pages)